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organization. It has saved the lives of many thousands of disabled men who otherwise would have perished from neglect on battlefields. But it has gone far beyond this limited sphere, and extended its well-organized service to those who have been injured or impoverished by earthquakes, conflagrations and kindred calamities. In all great exigencies of this kind it is prepared to proceed at once to the scene of distress, and give immediate assistance in an intelligent and efficient way.

But this is not all. The Red Cross has from the very start proved to be a powerful agency, in an indirect way, in the promotion of the cause of international arbitration and peace. Its work of relief on the battlefields of all the wars since it was founded has revealed and impressed, more fully than was previously recognized, the insanity and utter absurdity of war. Why, its workers have often asked, should the nations launch great armies against each other, and then follow up their deadly and ghastly work with the feeble effort — for comparatively it is always feeble — to patch up a little of the infinite mischief which has been wrought? Why not settle the disputes beforehand, in a rational and humane way, and avoid the awful desolation and loss? This is the question which the Red Cross has posted up on every sickening and loathsome battleground. Indeed, in the light of its work of mercy the battlefield has been shown to be the very antithesis of civilization.

Thus it has come about naturally enough that practically all of the Red Cross leaders and workers have become ardent advocates of arbitration and opponents of battle and bloodshed. As soon as the organized peace movement began its work in Switzerland Henri Dunant connected himself with it, and was ever afterwards an ardent supporter of its principles and policies. Clara Barton, who was for many years, until overtaken by old age, almost the soul of the organization and the very embodiment of mercy, has lost no opportunity to express her condemnation of a system whose very nature is cruelty and destruction, and to urge the settlement of differences by rational and merciful methods.

In this way the Red Cross, founded by Henri Dunant, which has carried the element of mercy on to the red, reeking field of battle produced by a cruel and merciless system of brute violence, has done much to open the eyes of the world to the heartlessness and utter inhumanity of the whole system of war, and to promote the adoption of that system of goodwill and pacific judicial settlement of disputes which is in time to banish the red scourge from the earth.

In view of what he had done in this way towards the peace of the world, the Nobel Committee of the Norwegian Parliament, when they made the first award of the Peace Prize the 10th of December, 1901, decided that Henri Dunant was one of the first entitled to receive

it. So he and Frederic Passy, who shared the prize with him that year, stand at the head of the growing list of Nobel Peace Laureates.

Aviation and War.

The extreme to which military rivalry has gone is illustrated in no way better than by the nervous anxiety shown by all the military powers to be among the first to put into the air a fleet of war craft. The aeroplane and other types of airship for any other than war purposes seem so far to have been little thought of. Everywhere the question is, How can airships be put to the service of the national defense?

France is already boasting that she is ahead of all other governments in her air armament; and as Great Britain, by her large navy, has acquired superiority on the sea, so she proposes from this time on to bend every energy toward gaining and holding the military mastery of the air. This is an indication that the old spirit of France is not dying as fast as we had hoped.

So moderate a man as our own Secretary of War, Hon. J. M. Dickinson, who has been a genuine friend of arbitration and peace, has come home from his trip to the Far East convinced that our government, too, must have its contingent of air fighting craft, and proposes in his annual report this winter to recommend to Congress to make a suitable appropriation for this purpose.

England and Germany and the rest are likewise in the race for aerial supremacy. It seems possible that very soon Dreadnaughts and torpedo boats and torpedo-boat destroyers will be out of the count, and that the whole mad military race will have transferred itself from the land and the water to the air above us. This is all ludicrous in the extreme, or would be so if these great and mighty powers were not all in such mortal fear and in dead earnest to avoid being outwitted by one another. They seem to be totally lacking in sense of humor. One would think that they would at least wait to launch their "airy navies" until an airship is invented which will not, as like as not, come down broken and uncontrollable into the very midst of the enemy and kill every man in it. But the most ludicrous, pitifully ludicrous, thing about it all is that governments claiming to be civilized and enlightened, and sometimes even making pretense to the title Christian, should be to-day, after nineteen centuries of Christian instruction and after the meeting of two great world Conferences at The Hague, living in such a spirit of distrust and fear of each other that they jump wildly at every invention of science in order to "get the drop" on each other. The airship rivalry is a new satire on civilization, to quote Premier Asquith's phrase, worse even than that of the prodigious armaments on sea and land which have grown up with the centuries.

How easy it would be if President Taft or Premier Asquith or Mr. Briand or Count von Bethmann-Hollweg, or some other responsible statesman, would immediately ask for a conference of the powers on how to prevent the present rivalry in armaments from taking possession of the air — how easy, we say, it would be to stop all this supreme nonsense before it gets its feet off the solid earth. But none of these statesmen seem to think of such a simple solution of the difficulty, but they all go soaring in imagination away into the air and busy their brains trying to devise some way by which they may outwit the other fellows on high.

The Danger of Alliances.

Some remarks made by Mr. Jacob H. Schiff at the celebration of the birthday of the Emperor of Japan in New York on the 3d of November seem to have been severely criticised by a certain section of the Japanese press, as were utterances made by him a year or so ago.

Mr. Schiff has sent us a copy of the brief address made by him on the above occasion, and though not requested by him to do so, we are publishing it in full, that all our friends may see what he really said, and may know once for all that Mr. Schiff is as far as anybody else from being an instigator of bad feeling between us and Japan. Indeed, it would be hard to find any utterance recently made on our relations with Japan that is characterized by a more admirable spirit than this word of his.

We confess that we can find nothing in Mr. Schiff's remarks, even in his expression of disapproval of Japan's course in entering into certain alliances, that justifies any manifestation of hostile feeling in Japan. Quite the contrary. The whole spirit of his words is warm with good feeling and good wishes towards the Mikado and his people. We suspect that the criticism reported by the press dispatches was based upon the garbled and perverted reports of some mischief-maker on this side of the Pacific, and was confined to jingo papers, which unfortunately exist in Japan, as they do among us, and are always ready, as ours are, to catch at any excuse to stir up ill-will and strife.

What Mr. Schiff has ventured to express in the way of criticism is disapproval of certain alliances which Japan has entered into, which, he believes, create a situation in the Far East which will necessarily be detrimental to American interests, and thus tend to weaken the friendship which has so long existed between the two countries. It was certainly his right, and even his duty, to point out this source of possible danger as he saw it.

If the alliances alluded to prove to restrict American trade in the Orient and to interfere with the policy of the "open door," as Mr. Schiff believes will be the case, their effect will almost certainly be to create dissatisfac-

tion among American merchants doing business in the Far East, and to dampen their affection for Japan. This might not go to the length of producing any serious strain between the two countries, but it would be most unfortunate however limited its evil effects might be. No bond of friendship can remain strong and perfect on which even slight strains are frequently thrown. Commerce is peculiarly sensitive to restrictions. It wants an open door, equal opportunity and no favors shown to competitors. Exclusions in whatever form it chafes against, and always will. Thus it happens that commerce, if given a fair field and equal opportunities, proves to be a powerful factor in promoting good feeling and peaceful relations, but if trammelled and discriminated against, it becomes an equally powerful agency in creating the conditions which tend to bring on war.

The class of alliances which Mr. Schiff criticises ought not to exist at all between nations to-day. The time for such agreements has passed by, if it ever was. They belong to an age when greed, malevolence and aggression were the order of the day. They are injurious to any nation that binds itself by them. They have been the curse of Europe, and are so still to some extent. They breed misrepresentations and suspicions and counter alliances. They prevent the spontaneous and normal flow of life and trade between countries and create artificial currents which are always costly and generally inefficient, even where they are not directly and positively injurious. Every nation to-day ought to hold itself aloof from the bondage imposed by all such alliances, that its people may be free to enter into such relations with any and all countries as may promote their own interests and the common good of the world. One of the greatest things ever done by our country in her own interests,—all sorts of interests,—and in the interests of humanity at large, has been her keeping free from "entangling alliances." She has thus been able to deal freely and profitably with all, and to be the friend of all.

Japan ought to follow this law for her own sake, as well as for the sake of her contribution to the civilization of the world. Whatever immediate advantage she may gain by such agreements, she will more than lose in the long run. All her friends in this country—and we are all her friends except a few jingoes—will hope with Mr. Schiff that she may extricate herself from these entanglements as speedily as possible, that she may "once more be free to meet us in a spirit of perfect mutual confidence and coöperation," as she has always done and means, we are sure, always to do. That she has entered into any alliance with the intention of injuring us in any way, or of retaliating for any injustice done to Japanese in this country, is not for a moment to be believed. Nothing we have here said must be taken to imply any such